



## **CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE AGENDA**

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **MINUTES**

June 17, 2021, 5PM

Members present: Meagan Benetti, Ben Echevarria, Zoe Iacovino, Jessica Lieberman, Emily Monea, Laura Pitone, Kat Rutkin, Beverly (Bev) Schwartz, Lucas Schaber

Members not present: Ona Ferguson, Crystal Turner, William (Bill) White

Staff attending: Anna Corning, Hope Williams, Collins Center - Libby Corbo, Collins Center - Steve McGoldrick

Other attending: Klaus Schultz, Barry Rafkind, Pat Cain, Greg Dennis, Jack Perenick

Meeting started at 5:05PM

#### **Decisions:**

1. Committee approved meeting minutes from 6/3.
  - a. Seven 5s
2. Committee agreed to draft an entirely new Charter with updated language instead of proposing amendments to the existing Charter.
  - a. Seven 5s
3. Committee approved Community Engagement Working Group proposal for the committee to have their own Kick-off event in mid-July.
  - a. Seven 5s
4. Committee approved Community Engagement Working Group proposal to have public comment at the beginning of every meeting, with each public comment being limited to 2 minutes per person and 20 minutes overall.
  - a. Nine 5s

*The committee uses the Fist to Five method of voting, a technique for gauging consensus. Voting ranges from 0 to 5. The scale is: 0 - no way, 1 - major issues to be resolved now, 2 - minor issues to be resolved now, 3 - minor issues to be resolved later, 4 - comfortable with this as it is, 5 - love this and will champion it. 0-2 is considered a lack of consensus, while 3-5 is considered consensus.*

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome 5:01
  - a. Hope welcomed committee and community members.

2. Approve 6/3 Minutes 5:04
  - a. Meeting minutes from 6/3 were approved.
3. New Charter vs. Amendments Discussion and Vote 5:07
  - a. Bev outlined differences between drafting a new charter vs proposing amendments to existing charter, and reminded the committee of previous discussion of this issue.
    - i. The committee briefly discussed and had positive reactions regarding drafting a new charter, and Hope called for a Fist to Five. The committee approved the decision to draft a new charter.
4. Community Engagement Update 5:20
  - a. Meagan presented the community engagement proposal to have a dedicated charter review kick-off event, and the creation of a calendar of events for continuous community engagement. The committee asked to ensure other major events aren't happening at the same time, and also wants to ensure the committee is attending events of diverse groups. The committee approved the proposal for the kick-off event.
  - b. Meagan presented the community engagement public comment proposal and guidelines around public comment at meetings. The committee discussed specifics of the proposal, and there were several comments to make sure it's as easy as possible to sign up and engage. The project managers will track who is speaking to ensure equitable speaking time for all community members. Committee approved the proposal to have public comment at the beginning of every meeting.
  - c. Hope gave the committee an update on the Community Engagement Online Platform and let the committee know they will be invited to the platform via email, and asked the committee to provide feedback.
5. Collins Center Questionnaire Discussion 5:50
  - a. Libby from the Collins Center presented the draft pre-questionnaire that would be sent to city staff and officials before their interview with Collins Center and Committee.
    - i. The committee asked how the questionnaire could be more thought provoking, and suggested including a short list of charter components. They also suggested having the coordinating team build a list for potential interviewees, and emphasized that the list must ensure diverse voices are represented.
  - b. Committee agreed that the coordinating team will review the questionnaire with Libby and present an interview proposal at the July 1st meeting.
6. Collins Center Article 1-3 Discussion 6:10
  - a. Libby from the Collins Center continued presenting the exemplar language from Article 2, which covers the Legislative Branch.
    - i. The committee asked clarifying questions about the definitions of "charter objection," "adopted measure," and "shall." They also flagged for discussion: vacancies on multiple member bodies, mayoral start date, residency of mayoral candidates, and other potential changes. The entire document with comments can be found [here](#).

7. Closing Notes and Action Items - 6:55

- a. Hope let the committee know the brochure will be mailed out on June 21st and reminded the committee the next meeting is July 1st at 5PM.

Posted: July 6th, at 3PM